

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claims 17-28 are canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications to pursue the subject matter of non-elected (and now canceled) claims 18-28, which were withdrawn by the Examiner due to the Election of Species Requirement. The features of claim 17 have been placed into claim 1. Thus, no new matter is added by the above amendments.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is requested to consider the information that was submitted with the July 17, 2006 Information Disclosure Statement. The Examiner is requested to return an initialed PTO-1449 with the next Patent Office communication.

II. All Pending Claims are Patentable

Although claims 4, 6 and 7 also have been withdrawn as a result of the Election of Species Requirement, Applicants submit that these claims should be re-joined and allowed when their corresponding independent claim 1 is allowed.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 8-17 stand rejected on the basis of non-statutory double patenting over claims 1-38 of Application No. 11/353,220. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

None of the claims of Application No. 11/353,220 recite the input stopping means now recited in independent claim 1. Applicants submit that independent claim 1 of this application, and its dependent claims, are patentably distinct over the claims of Application No. 11/353,220. Withdrawal of the non-statutory double-patenting rejection is requested.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 8-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,011,379 to Singh et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

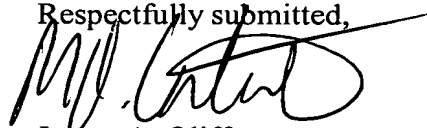
Singh et al. does not disclose or suggest the claim 1 (formerly claim 17) "input stopping means which, when the charge accumulating device is charged during learning, prevents the input of the current values and the terminal voltage values to the neural network until energy charged in the charge accumulating device is discharged." As described in Applicants' specification at, for example, page 15, line 21 - page 16, line 22, the above feature of claim 1 addresses problems that can be caused in the learning process immediately after the charge accumulating device is charged. Singh et al. does not recognize or address such problems, and does not disclose or suggest an "input stopping means" as recited in Applicants' independent claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over Singh et al. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

JAO:MAC/ccs
Date: October 23, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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